

GPS PLAYER AND TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

11U-14U SELECT

These programs have annual tryouts. GPS will make every effort to form teams that will enable as many of the players trying out to make a team. To help parents decide whether this program is appropriate for their child, characteristics of players who might excel in our GPS program are listed below. If your child displays a majority of these characteristics, they are probably suited to the Academy level of play.

- Demonstrates sound technical skills (ball control, dribbling, shooting) A strong desire to compete at a higher level
- Physically stronger, athletically quicker than most players within their age group
- High level of coordination and agility
- Aggressive during games in their attitude and approach to getting involved, tending to dominate play
- Demonstrates a high level of focus and concentration during practices and games
- Has started to narrow down the number of extracurricular activities, making soccer a high priority
- Practices with a ball on own time outside of games and team practices.

Players are identified and grouped by age, ability and mindset. The staff will teach and develop these players to have the confidence, and the technical ability to enjoy the game. All training is curriculum based in order to achieve basic-fundamentals necessary within the game. Groups will be matched up by level(s) in order to keep the training environment challenging.

Player development at the Academy ages is VERY FLUID due to different rates of physical / technical maturation and game awareness. Therefore, a rigid team system is less appropriate for Academy teams. The Academy Director , in consultation with age division coaches , shall identify teams for each age level for games and tournament. The teams may include different age players and will be selected based on ability and physical maturity. Teams may be shuffled and mixed for various alternative competitions over the course of the year with flexibility provided by the Academy style format but mostly they will stay with the group in which they are assigned.

Team Commitment

Each player and parent shall sign a Team Commitment Letter. The letter shall identify the expectations of the coach for the team, the level of participation required, and the minimum tournaments and events the player shall participate as part of the team.

Each player will be provided a season schedule by their coach. This schedule will outline area festivals or tournaments that players are expected to participate in. This schedule will also outline higher level tournaments that players may elect to participate in. Once a commitment to the tournaments of your choice is made, the player and parent will be obligated. By signing the Team Commitment Letter, it is assumed that all players are assessed for, and will participate in, all events agreed upon.

15U – 19U SELECT

The purpose of the GPS Select selection process is to form competitive teams to travel throughout the region with players of similar soccer abilities and commitment. This process will identify players of similar abilities and place them on teams. Depending on the number of players in each age group, a combination of age groups may occur, or players may not be invited to participate in the Select Division.

Staff members consisting of the DOC along with selected coaches will evaluate each player. The players will be evaluated on skills, performance, attitude, sportsmanship and other factors. The DOC shall make the final decision on all player evaluation and team selections.

Team Size and Structure

The Select Division may have more than one team in an age group creating Premier and Competitive teams/levels. There will be some movement in these groups for developmental purposes, to create group and club pride, and to challenge players in different environments as they may improve or, conversely, move toward other interests or recover from injuries. To ensure that each team has adequate number players and to ensure players have playing time, Select teams shall be no smaller than 14 players and no larger than 18 players. The top-rated players will create the Premier team. If an age group has enough numbers to create additional teams, a Competitive Team will be created. The DOC may combine age groups in order to create the proper competitive environment for the players.

Team Commitment

Each player and parent shall sign a Team Commitment Letter. The letter shall identify the expectations of the coach for the team, the level of participation required, and the minimum tournaments and events the player shall participate as part of the team.

By signing the Team Commitment Letter, it is assumed that all players are assessed for, and will participate in, all events identified. In this program there is a 60-day commitment window for all events. If a team member cannot participate in an event, they must notify a team representative (i.e. coach and manager) of such before the 60-day commitment window. Players that break the 60-day rule may not be invited to be part of the program the following season.

If the head coach identifies a group of players for a specific tournament, then only that group of players will be responsible for tournament expenses. If notice is given within the 60-day commitment window, the player will be charged for the event and all related coaching expenses unless the reason for the notice not to participate is for a family emergency, injury, or similar related event.

Occasionally, teams find it necessary to enter an event with limited advance notice. This typically occurs early in the soccer year for events held shortly after the teams form in July and/or during the course of the soccer year as a substitute for planned tournaments which the team did not enter or for which the team was not accepted. If a team decides to enter any events with limited advance notice (that is within the 60-day commitment window described above), the commitment window will begin on the date when the event registration is submitted.

This policy is provided for those instances when a player is unable to attend an event and notice is given well in advance of the event and to ensure that teams don't have to scramble to find players because of late dropouts.